

Albion Area Lifelong Learners

A Lifelong Learning Experience in Cooperation with Albion College

Greetings

I hope you have all kept safe and sane during the past few months. I'm sorry that we had to cancel our wonderful spring assembly speaker and classes—in retrospect, it certainly was the right thing to do. Back then we hoped that the fall term might be “back to normal,” but we're not there yet. However, many of our members expressed interest in some safe (on-line) AALL offerings, so we will offer a slightly reduced version of our fall term.

The decision to go on-line seemed to be the only safe way for us to proceed. We're sorry that not all of our members may have the capability or the confidence level to take part. I hope everyone with a computer or tablet or smart phone will take this opportunity to experiment with us and become more comfortable with an aspect of modern technology that will probably become increasingly important to all of us. After mail-in registration, we will email detailed instructions on how to “hook up” to the assembly and classes.

Some important changes for Fall, 2020, that you should be aware of:

1. Given the unusual circumstances of the year, with no spring assembly, no spring classes, and only remote classes in the fall, we are adjusting our usual fees. Annual membership dues for 2020-2021 will be reduced to \$10 and there will be no charge for any of the fall classes. As always, members must pay dues in order to take classes. We collect annual dues to pay for our ongoing expenses (insurance, web fees, state fee, honorariums, etc.) so we hope you will continue to support the organization by paying your dues even if you decide not to register for fall classes.
2. The Fall Assembly (on September 10 at 11:15 am) will be held in Google Meeting or a comparable virtual setting. Because we will need to send log-in information to participants, you will be asked to register for the assembly at the same time that you register for classes.
3. Registration for both the assembly and the classes will be by mail only. Mail-in registration forms (along with a check or money order made out to AALL) must be received by Thursday, September 3. Mail service can be sluggish—please mail early!
4. Log-in instructions for the assembly and classes will be emailed to you soon after registration.
5. The on-line class format offered an opportunity to experiment with some unconventional (for us) scheduling. The Pandemic class will meet once a week for two weeks; the Writing class meets once a week for four weeks; and Celebrating the Centennial will meet twice a week for two weeks. Take note of the specific dates in the course descriptions.

I know we'll miss the camaraderie of in-person interactions this fall, but we can all continue to learn by taking advantage of our on-line offerings. In the meantime, stay safe and sane.

Royal Ward
President, AALL

Upcoming Events

Fall Assembly – Thursday, September 10, streaming at 11:15 am
(send in registration to receive log-in information for assembly presentation)



Patrick McLean: “A Campaign Like No Other: Making Sense of the 2020 American Election”

In the midst of a pandemic, one of the most polarizing figures in modern American political history seeks a second term while his opponent campaigns from his basement. Polls seem to give the challenger, Democrat Joe Biden, the edge, but the polls said something similar about Hillary Clinton in 2016.

This talk will try to make sense of the campaign that will (probably) end on November 3. What will the candidates’

strategies be? What is the reelection pathway for the incumbent president? What impact will the election have on other races, particularly the races that will determine control of the US Senate? We will discuss all of this and more, and we’ll leave plenty of time for questions.

Patrick McLean is the Director of the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service at Albion College. He brings more than 20 years of public sector experience to Albion, including top level positions in state government, local government and the nonprofit sector. Most recently Patrick spent four years as Finance Director for the City of Toledo, and his 11 years with the Ohio legislature included four years as Minority Chief of Staff. Patrick earned his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Dayton and his first M.A. in Political Science from Miami University. He recently completed a second M.A. in International Relations from Freie Universität Berlin Center for Global Politics. Patrick also holds a Certificate in not-for-profit management and fundraising from New York University. He has taught courses in American and International Politics, Global Issues and Philanthropy at institutions of higher education in Michigan, Ohio and New York. At Albion his courses include public policy, state and local government, innovative cities, an interdisciplinary Honors course on Canada, and one of the few courses (as far as he knows) specifically on Gerald Ford in the world. He has lectured on the presidency and on American campaigns in Canada and in Poland, and has spent his pandemic studying French and Polish.

Upcoming Courses

PANDEMIC IN PERSPECTIVE: THE SPANISH FLU OF 1918. Doug White. Director, Center for Sustainability and the Environment (Albion College). Mondays for two weeks. 10 am – 12 noon. October 5, 12. This class will be treated as a book club offering (lecture and guided discussion). Held in Google Meeting or comparable virtual setting; instructions will be provided to participants.

The COVID-19 pandemic is having profound impacts on our personal lives and our society even if we have been lucky enough to personally avoid the virus itself. To better appreciate the transformative scope of our current pandemic, we will read and discuss Laura Spinney's *Pale Rider*, an excellent history of the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918—the deadliest calamity of the 20th Century. Spinney argues that scholars have only recently fully recognized its consequences. Spinney's account is filled with astonishingly prescient parallels to our current circumstances.

From the book jacket: "The Spanish Flu of 1918-1920 was one of the greatest human disasters of all time. It infected a third of the people of the Earth—from the poorest immigrants in New York City to the king of Spain, Franz Kafka, Mahatma Gandhi, and Woodrow Wilson. But despite the death toll of between 50 and 100 million people, it exists in our memory as an afterthought to World War I. In this gripping narrative history, Laura Spinney [draws]. . . on the latest research in history, virology, epidemiology, psychology, and economics."

Text: Laura Spinney. *Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How It Changed the World*. New York: Public Affairs Press, 2017.

WRITING (AND A LITTLE BIT OF SPEAKING) FOR THE FUN OF IT. Jim Whitehouse, B.A. (English, biology from Albion College), JD (University of Toledo), Newspaper columnist and retired lawyer. Fund raiser for Albion College and the Nature Conservancy. Tuesdays. 10 a.m.-12 noon. October 6, 13, 20, 27. Held as virtual meetings through Zoom; instructions will be provided to participants. *Limited to 20 participants—if you are interested in this class, be sure to read the "Policy for Classes with Limited Enrollment."*

This course will be a relaxed journey into writing and a tiny bit of speaking for fun. It will be a continuation of "Writing for the Fun of It" presented in February 2019, but attendance at that earlier class is NOT a requirement. We will explore new ideas, techniques, and challenges and have fun along the way.

Many people are anxious about writing and even more nervous about public speaking. Be assured NOBODY will be required to share what you have written, and NOBODY will be required to speak publicly, in class or out. Since this will be a Zoom class, it will be an experiment for all of us. The "public speaking" portion will be very minimal.

We will identify and try to knock down barriers to writing and public speaking. Writing assignments will be short, and most will probably be completed during class. A few brief homework assignments may be included.

The instructor is willing to ruthlessly or kindly critique your work. Your choice.

Have paper and pencils or pens ready at your home or Zoom space.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL: ANNA HOWARD SHAW AND THE NEW SUFFRAGE

SCHOLARSHIP. Trisha Franzen, Ph.D., Professor of Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies (Albion College). Tuesdays and Thursdays for two weeks. 2 – 4 pm. October 20, 22, 27, 29. Held in Google Meeting or comparable virtual setting; instructions will be provided to participants.

Over the 100 years since women earned the right to vote, scholars, writers and the media have continually debated and revised both the facts and meanings of women's struggle for the elective franchise. Today, we observe the centennial of suffrage as our culture as a whole reconsiders who should be designated as heroes and included in our history. As a result, many feminist historians have begun another major reexamination of woman suffrage. The earliest histories of the movement ignored issues of race, class and sexuality, creating a narrative that recognized the issues and activism of middle-class, white women.

Though Albion College's own Anna Howard Shaw received significant credit for her leadership in the movement, scholars ignored her identity as a gender-transgressing, self-supporting woman. Many other women, women of color, working women and queer women especially, were left out entirely.

This class will create a timeline that traces the shifting popular and scholarly views of women's rights activism from the early triumphs, through the emergence of the field of feminist history and the on-going demands for a more critical and inclusive women's history. We will critically examine and discuss several of the recent publications and media presentations on women's suffrage. Participants will have access to on-line readings.

Registration Information

1. If you wish to register for the assembly, "A Campaign Like No Other," place an X in the box in front of "Assembly."
2. For each course for which you want to register, place a number in the box in front of the course name: 1 for the course you most want to take, 2 for the second course you wish to take, etc. (NOTE: If you only wish to take one course, mark it with the number 1—see instruction 3 below.)
3. If you wish to indicate an alternate choice (in case one of your choices is oversubscribed and you are not admitted to that course), mark an X in the box before your alternate choice.
4. Mail the completed form along with a check or money order payable to AALL to: **AALL Registrar, P. O. Box 188, Albion, MI 49224**

Policy for Limited Enrollment Classes

- When a course with limits is over-enrolled, the names of all those who had it listed as #1 shall be entered in a lottery. Those randomly drawn shall be placed in the class. Those not selected will comprise the waiting list and also be given first access if that course is offered again. The Registrar will keep a record of those on the waiting list until the course is offered again.
- Those selected for the course in its first offering will not be eligible to retake it until all those on the waiting list have had the opportunity to take the course.
- Those who have signed up for a class with limits and listed it as #1 are encouraged to sign up for at least one additional class. Members are also encouraged not to sign up for a course with limited enrollment if they know they won't be there for all four sessions.

AALL Fall Term 2020 - REGISTRATION DEADLINE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

REGISTRATION 1

	2020-2021 annual dues (July 1 – June 30)	\$10
	Assembly: A campaign like no other	free
	Class: Pandemic in perspective	free
	Class: Writing for the fun of it	free
	Class: Celebrating the centennial: Anna Howard Shaw	free

TOTAL:

Name	
Phone	
Email	

REGISTRATION 2

	2020-2021 annual dues (July 1 – June 30)	\$10
	Assembly: A campaign like no other	free
	Class: Pandemic in perspective	free
	Class: Writing for the fun of it	free
	Class: Celebrating the centennial: Anna Howard Shaw	free

TOTAL:

Name	
Phone	
Email	

Name _____ Spouse/partner name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

___ Yes, I am 55 or older (spouse/partner could be younger)

MAIL form and check or money order to: AALL Registrar, P. O. Box 188, Albion, MI 49224